

[5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

On 21.8.2006, Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government had taken samples of 96 filled LPG cylinders from Madanpur Khadar LPG bottling plant and 63 filled LPG cylinders from Takri Kalan LPG bottling plant of IOC. Out of total 160 LPG cylinders, 1 LPG cylinder was found under weight by 190 grams at Tikri Kalan LPG bottling plant due to filling from old Mechanical Carousel. Out of three Mechanical Carousels, two have already been replaced with Electronic Carousels and one is under replacement and is expected to be completed by December 2006.

Similarly, on 22.09.2006, Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government had taken samples of 96 filled LPG cylinders from Piyala LPG bottling plant of BPCL and 64 filled LPG cylinders from Bahadurgarh LPG bottling plant of HPCL. Out of the above 1 LPG cylinder each was found under weight by 250 grams and 585 grams at BPCL's and HPCL's bottling plant respectively due to wrong encoding of tare weights at the Electronic Carousels.

(c) Action against Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has been taken by Weights & Measures Department of Delhi Government. The Plant Managers and the employees of the bottling plants have been sensitized/ cautioned to ensure non-recurrence of such lapses in future.

New marking system to prevent adulteration

*196. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new marking system is being started to prevent adulteration of Kerosene oil in Petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new system would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of kerosene being provided under Public Distribution System (PDS), Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to introduce

marker in kerosene. Public Sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the system, marker is being put in kerosene at all supply locations/depots/ terminals. The system heralds the introduction of a world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. Through this measure, adulteration even with very small quantities of kerosene can be detected.

Resumption of excavations in Nalanda

*197. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Is formulating a conceptual plan to resume excavations in Nalanda after a gap of two decades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this time the ASI has asked the Hyderabad based National Remote Sensing Agency to conduct an aerial survey to determine the extent and influence of Nalanda and throw more precise hints of possible structure buried deep under the earth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would be undertaking excavations in Nalanda for formulating a conceptual plan of ancient Nalanda University.

(b) and (c) The ASI is collaborating with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad for conducting Remote Sensing and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of an area of around 16 sq. km. in and around Nalanda with a view to determine extent and distribution pattern of ancient structures and to examine potential sites for further archaeological research and excavations. As a preliminary step, the ASI will carry out excavation at Juafurdih (district Nalanda) during 2006-07.